enRAged

"the journal of Revolutionary Action"

contains writings on May 1 and other global carnivals against corporate tyranny, capitalism and the environment and why voting won't change anything… plus more!

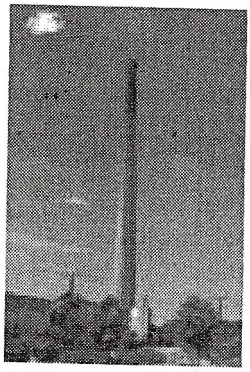
FIRST

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

We are currently faced with an ecological crisis. Industrial society is relentlessly destroying all of our remaining wilderness, our roads are clogged with cars and trucks spewing poisonous gases into the air. Despite this destruction we see increasing cooperation between the State and multinational corporations to get around community opposition to their policies of destruction in the pursuit of profit.

The residents of Port Kembla know very well the alliance between the State and multinational capital. The Port Kembla copper smelter is a typical example of factories and enterprises in the "new economy". It closed down originally in 1995 but was reopened recently when a multinational company based in Japan started a company called Port Kembla Copper to restore the plant and resume operations.

The people of Port Kembla had already begun opposing the reopening of the smelter long before PKC took on the plant operations. The residents took the developers and the department of Urban Affairs and Planning to the Land and Environment court on the grounds that the company had not adequately consulted with



residents. The night before the case was to be heard in court.the Carr government passed a special act - the Port Kembla Development(Special Provisions) Bill.

This is an example of how local governments conspire with multinational corporations to block the community's attempts to stop environmental destruction. Nor is this the only assistance given by the government to PKC. The Environmental Protection Authority(EPA) the branch of government which orchestrates the lie that the government is protecting the environment, has allowed PKC to emit poisonous gases and heavy metals at levels well above international standards. I believe this provides us with a good starting point to identify the real enemy of environmental sustainability - global capitalism.

"Thats right! I won't be in today, it's... **May 1st**

Australian Phone in Sick Day!"

phuc it up mayday2k.org s11.org

Global capitalism is the global economic system of class rule by the capitalists — the owners of all the resources, factories and companies over the rest of us — ordinary people who have no choice but to work or look for work to sustain ourselves and our families. The State government and all governments whether national or international like the UN and the hundreds of similar organisations like the World Bank Fund exist to allow these global rulers to exploit our labour and our environment.

There can be no more glaring example of the State protecting multinational companies over local communities, profit over the environment, than the state governments treatment of the residents of Port Kembla. In a system which is guaranteed by such powerful forces — the army, the police etc we have to realise that our fundamental enemy is government itself.

Rather than hanging our hopes on a political party that claims to represent our interests we need to fight the whole system and replace it with one that truly represents our interests based on democracy and participation rather than a continuing spectacle and no real democracy and control of our everyday lives.

Global capitalism is a new era of capitalism where the ruling class is truly international — launching attacks on ordinary people that are coordinated internationally. The interests of the companies themselves are also more closely intertwined than ever before. The Port Kembla copper smelter gets its copper from the infamous Ok Tedi mine in Papau New Guinea. Operated by well know corporate criminal BHP the mine has led to the Ok Tedi river being declared biologically dead. In 1995 the level of waste being poured into the river ammounted 80,000 tonnes a day. The local community have attempted to gain redress through the court system and although they have offered a compensation package BHP have refused to build a tailings damn to store the waste and stop it flowing into the river system.

M1 is the latest in a series of international days of action against capitalism including the Seattle and Washington demonstrations. These days of action are about organising in our local communities and linking up with activists around the world. It is through organising internationally that ordinary people can take control of their own lives and fight their global corporate masters.

The Next International Day of Action Against Capitalism

Carnival Against Capital: Origins of M1

Background – ideas and aims

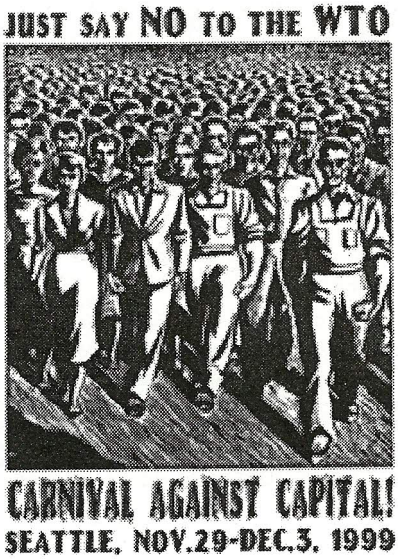
M1 is part of a string of global actions against capitalism. It's roots are with the People's Global Action (PGA) – an "instrument of organisation" against 'free' trade and the World Trade organisation (WTO). The first action facilitated by the PGA was one against the WTO in Geneva in 1998. Following on was the J18 action in June 1999, where working class people from around the world pooled their ideas and resources in an effort to fight their common source of oppression – capitalism. Further, people recognise that transnational trade and financial institutions (such as the World Trade Organisation, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank) implement the theories of neo-liberalism, and that the only way to fight these institutions is through grassroots resistance in the form of direct action.

Initial concept for J18 (coming from London Greenpeace & Reclaim the Streets) were transformed into an international day through the PGA. The idea of J18 was to focus action on particular targets – especially trade and financial institutions - which have the power and control to make decisions which effect the lives of millions around the world. The action itself was to take a new form: rather than the regular protest march, J18 was to be a *carnival against capital*. By taking the carnival approach, and directing attention at a few specific institutions, the misery of life under capitalism becomes clear. We want to destroy class barriers, we want the power to make the decisions over our own lives, and we want to enjoy them!

J18 – what happened?

People participated in J18 in over 41 countries around the world.

In Sydney, the expression of anti-capitalism included banner drops in the CBD, street theatre, an "Anti-Business Lunch" and a Critical Mass bike ride.



In India, people protested against the marginalisation of peoples by WTO policies. In Europe, street parties and direct actions against multi-national corporations. In the US, actions targeted financial institutions, and public areas were reclaimed.

Following the success and the networks established through J18, plans were made for the next global action against capitalism; at the WTO conference, Seattle, November 1999.

N30 - Seattle

The N30 action against the World Trade Organisation in Seattle widened boundaries and strengthened ties in the battle against capitalism. Around 50,000 people participated in the N30 protests. Environmentalists, workers, parents, religious groups, senior citizens, the whole spectrum of the working class turned out to stop the WTO conference.

[From the N30 website: **"May our resistance be as transnational as capital".**]

The WTO is specifically targeted for it's policies on international trade, which place profits above all else "regardless of implications for social justice and environmental sustainability".

The state reacted to the protests with violence and force: rubber bullets, pepper spray, tear gas and water hoses were used in an attempt to keep people away from the conference area. The city of Seattle was turned into a veritable state of martial law; even wearing a gas mask became an arrestable offence.

The next point of struggle was to be on April 16 in Washington D.C, where the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) were meeting.

A16 – D.C

Just a few weeks ago, 30,000 people congregated in Washington D.C as a "Mobilisation for Global Justice" with a call to "De-fund the Fund, Break the Bank, Dump the Debt".

Following the N30 action, police in D.C prepared for the protesters. Prior to the April 16, police raided the community centre where most organising was to take place – citing 'fire hazards' as the reason for the raid. Long-range pepper spray was used by police, as well as other violent means of crown control; including lines of motorbikes.

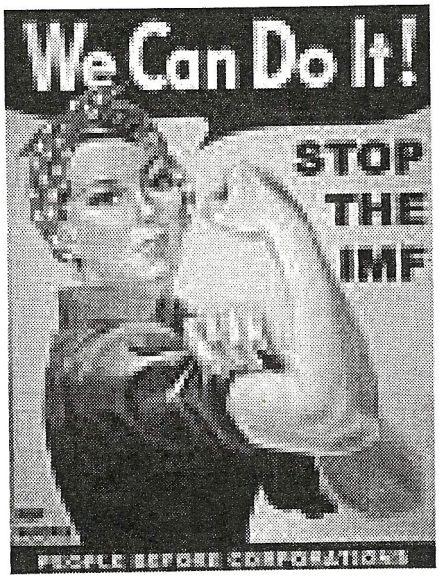
Although the IMF/WB conference went ahead, some reports note that delegates were severely delayed, and some buses were turned away altogether. A16, N30 and J18 were successful in many ways. Networks were formed, people had hands-on experience of organising democratically. Protesters learned (sometimes painfully) to what lengths the state will go in order to break a movement and to quell opposition. People met with other groups and other people; swapping ideas and information, confirming the all-encompassing nature of capitalism, and the misery that entails. And the need for resistance becomes even more acute when, during these actions, alternative ways of living and relating to others are not only discussed, but employed by those involved.

And finally....M1

M1 is the next global action organised through the People's Global Action, and the other networks formed from J18, N30 & A16. Mayday's celebration of and call for worker's rights is very much connected to global anti-capitalist resistance, though M1 takes the call a step further. *Carnival against Corporate Tyranny* is the theme for M1, which follows on from the aforementioned global actions, and demands that we take back control over our lives, and our communities.

2000 MayDay

Around the world, people are organising carnivals against capital, in the form of street theatre, street parties, and direct actions against trade and financial institutions.



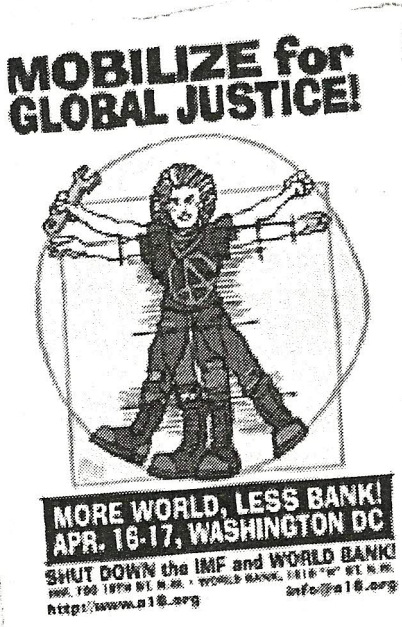
"Imagine what we could do if we replaced capitalism with a system based on our needs and desires, not their profits."

Christine Carey
aminya@hotmail.com

For more information, check out these websites:

- www.a16.org
- www.agp.org
- www.freespeech.org/mayday2k
- www.lobsterparty.org
- www.globalexchange.org

In Wollongong, there could be no more apt example of corporate tyranny than the Port Kembla copper smelter. Here, large corporations & governments have the decision making power. Here, people's very lives are mere obstacles in the capitalists' quest for profit. Here, it is clear that the only way to fight the corporation, capitalism, is to take action with other community members and demand that we have control over our lives – and that we have the freedom to enjoy them.



Reformist Politics Can Suck My Left One

One of the greatest problems in the environmental struggle is that it is too often focussed on reformist politics, on pleading for the government and parliamentary system to save a few trees, rather than focussing on destroying that capitalist system which is the main cause of our environmental problems. While it may seem much easier to let your struggle for the protection of our precious environment end at voting for a green party, it is important that you realise that the concept behind voting in a parliamentary party to fight for the environmental struggle will not achieve anything positive in terms of destroying the very economic and political system that allows environmental degradation to continue at such an alarming rate.

The main reason behind why voting will change so little is that the party is focussing on electoral politics, on getting re-elected, not real struggle and politics of our lives. Also, a party cannot possibly operate to cause real change and real revolution, because electoral politics operate to preserve, not resist the capitalist system which is the primary cause of the worst environmental problems today. It is naive to assume that the voting of parliamentary representatives will lead to change; it is indeed obvious that the only positive changes in the environment and labour movements have been achieved through the struggle of the people - direct action.

One does not have to look hard to find evidence regarding the conservative and reactionary politics of many Green parties. Here are a few interesting examples that I hope would convince you that voting for a reactionary party, let alone any party, is not going to achieve anything productive for the struggle against environmental destruction:

1. The German Green Party, notorious for their reactionary and conservative politics, are the best example. The German Green Party are the ruling party of Germany (in an alliance with the Social Democratic Party), and are therefor an excellent example of why a party, however pretty and productive their name may be, will not be able to subvert parliamentary politics in a capitalist system. Under the leadership of the German Green Party, Germany has sold arms to the KLA and participated in the war in Serbia. How 'green' is that?
2. Many green parties promote a very racist agenda, opposing the concept of 'overpopulation', and it is interesting to note the Australian Green's share One Nation's immigration policy of Zero Growth!

A.K.A If Voting Really Changed Anything, It Would Be Illegal.

Our struggle will focus on protecting, preserving and replenishing the environment, but must also understand that these cannot be achieved under the capitalist system which we live under.

So, we must also focus on destroying the capitalist economic system which allows the production of unnecessary products at alarming costs to our precious environment. We must not simply demand reforms from our government to alternative energy sources and reliable recycling programs - not to say that these are unnecessary demands - but we must focus on destroying the economic system which allow evil companies like PKC to operate, when it is evident that the levels of toxicity coming from this place are far above those acceptable by the EPA standards. When money exists as the sole reason for the destruction or preservation of our environment, than we will always lose our fight. We must focus on deconstructing the system that we live in and fighting for an alternative system which will prioritise the protection of our environment and of our people over the protection of profits. That is why we are here today, to show our disgust for the tyrannical control that corporations have over our lives, and to try and encourage people to question the concepts of capitalism and the parliamentary system, hopefully to make important changes to the way they approach politics and the lifestyle choices they make.

Peace, Go Vegan! Love, Comrade XdanX.

WE'VE BEEN SAVING WHILE THEY SPENT, WE'VE BEEN SWEATING WHILE THEY SLEPT...
THERE'S GONNA COME A TIME WHEN WE CAN CALL THEIR EMPIRE OURS!

Overpopulation

A common current within the environment movement is that overpopulation is the cause of the environmental crisis, however this analysis ignores the social basis of population growth. It tries to show population growth as an unstoppable force requiring ever increasing consumption. This of course provides for a fairly gloomy picture as it seems environmental destruction is inevitable.

It is not, however, a realistic model of population. Statistics show that in many advanced capitalist countries population growth is either static or the population is actually shrinking.
It is through improving the economic and social well being of the world that we can help to solve environmental destruction. In many developing countries with little social welfare infrastructure, parents need to have children to support them in their old age.

The Australian government s racist immigration policies are not based on concerns over environmental sustainability. In fact if it were not for immigration Australia s population would be shrinking. Rather immigration is used to drum up racist hysteria among the working class distract us from the real enemy — international capital.

It is international capital itself that promotes the idea of overpopulation through its sponsorship of organisations such as the United Nations Population Fund and the International Planned Parenting Fund. The same idea that is used to promote forced abortion and sterilisation of women and men in the developing world.

While overpopulation agencies promote the idea of the desperate need for contraception in the developing world the reality of this intervention is forced contraception. The links between overpopulation groups and international security organisations are open and clear. During former US defence secretary Robert McNamara s tenure as president of the World Bank the bank became particularly interested in population issues, the 1976 US National Security Council Memorandum called the World Bank the principle international financial institution providing population programmes.

These organisations see in growing population a threat to corporate dominance of natural resources. We need to stop their hiiacking of the environment movement and focus on these same organisations effect on our environment.
By alexander brown

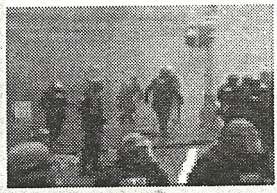
What is Revolutionary Action?

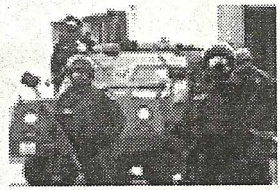
Revolutionary Action (RA) has been established by a group of local people committed to a revolutionary transformation of society based on the united power of the working class. Revolutionary Action is a collective not a political party. To achieve this aim we support the self- mobilisation and self - organisation of the working class, who make up the vast majority of society. RA believes that only the collective democratic action of the oppressed can create a society based upon the fullest possible political democracy.

RA is for people who call themselves anarchists, socialists, communists or whatever, to come together to fight against capitalism and it's effects. Within the boundaries that the collective explicitly believes, that the way to create a better world is through revolutionary workers' self-liberation, the greatest amount of pluralism and debate is encouraged. RA has no central body and no hierarchy. All decisions are made by the general membership and any administrative positions are without privilege, recallable and will only exist to administer decisions of the membership.

RA members participate in and try to build movements that fight against the misery of capitalism on everyday issues affecting the working class. We try to bring activists together to build campaigns, to fight for progressive social change and to work towards a better world. We try to find new strategies aimed at transforming working people's organisations into democratic, participatory, activist and campaigning bodies. Within these movements we argue for internal democracy and militant class politics. For we believe that not only are these tactics necessary to win gains from capital but it is through this process of democratic struggle that the working class is united.

RA wants to help build working class power. We do not seek leadership but rather try to assist ongoing struggles while drawing out and articulating their revolutionary implications. RA wants to be a flexible and innovative organisation that can help to educate and organise people. We challenge racism, sexism, homophobia and nationalism - all weapons the rulers use to pit us against each other. Through a democratic, militant and dynamic struggle against capitalism we aim to help transform ourselves, our class and the world. Revolutionary Action wants to help make it possible for people to gain control of their everyday lives and to help make life as marvelous and fulfilling as it can be.

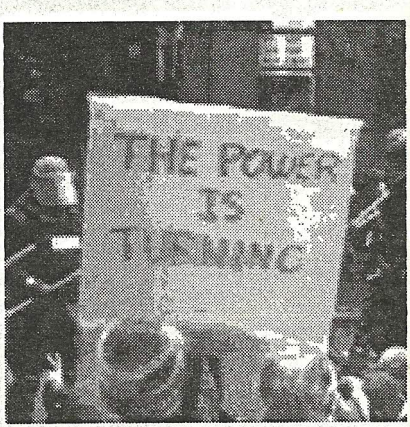


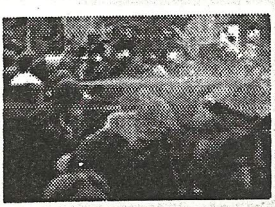


September 11-13

Crown Casino

Melbourne





The World Economic Forum is an organisation made up of the richest global companies in the world. For the past thirty years the WEF has held regular summits and meetings to "manage globalisation." Every February in the Swiss Mountain resort town of Davos, over a thousand of the world's CEOs meet along with a restricted list of politicians, academics and influential media who are invited along. Discussions range from how to manage the Asian economic crisis to understanding the internet revolution all with the aim of extending market and corporate power.

S-11

In September the World Economic Forum will hold the Asia-Pacific Economic Summit- "Asia/Pacific in the 21st Century: Leveraging the new drivers of growth." The summit is jointly sponsored by the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Davos Connection (the Australian arm of the World Economic Forum) and will take place at the Crown Casino, September 11-13. In the tradition of the Seattle and Washington demonstrations, mass protests are planned. Wollongong activists will be going down to join in.

let our resistance be as transnational as capital